

*AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS*

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-8 (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~analyzing a~~ identifying an additive material, present in a minute-content of amount in a polymer, the method comprising:

placing a pellet of a polymer material, ~~including~~ containing, in a minute-content of a amount, the additive material, the additive material being different from the polymer material, on a face of a substrate, wherein the face of the substrate is one of silver and gold;

disposing an organic solvent, which dissolves the ~~minute-content~~ additive material contained in the pellet of the polymer material, between the face of the substrate and the pellet of the polymer material;

maintaining the organic solvent between the face of the substrate and the pellet of the polymer material at room temperature and ~~extracting the minute-content from the pellet of the polymer material by~~ dissolving the ~~minute-content~~ molecules of the additive material in the organic solvent;

removing the pellet of the polymer material from the face of the substrate and leaving a residue of the molecules of the additive material that has been dissolved on the face of the substrate; and

analyzing the face of the substrate by time-of-flight secondary ion mass spectrometry and ~~thereby~~ identifying the minute-content additive material that was dissolved in the organic solvent from the spectrometry.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 9, wherein the organic solvent includes, dissolved within the organic solvent, a silver composition.

11. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 9, including vibrating the substrate while maintaining the organic solvent between the face of the substrate and the pellet of the polymer material, and dissolving the ~~minute content~~ molecules of the additive material in the organic solvent, and maintaining the organic solvent at room temperature.

12. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 10, including vibrating the substrate, while maintaining the organic solvent between the face of the substrate and the pellet of the polymer material, and dissolving the ~~minute content~~ molecules of the additive material in the organic solvent, and maintaining the organic solvent at room temperature.

13. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 9, including exposing the pellet of the polymer material to an ambient of saturated vapor of the organic solvent while maintaining the organic solvent between the face of the substrate and the pellet of the polymer material, and dissolving the ~~minute content~~ molecules of the additive material in the organic solvent, and maintaining the organic solvent at room temperature.

14. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 10, including exposing the pellet of the polymer material to an ambient of saturated vapor of the organic solvent while maintaining the organic solvent between the ~~top~~ face of the substrate and the pellet of the polymer material, and dissolving the ~~minute content~~ molecules of the additive material in the organic solvent, and maintaining the organic solvent at room temperature.

15. (New) A method of analyzing concentration of a material contained, in a minute amount, in a polymer, the method comprising:

placing a pellet of polystyrene including a minute amount of decabromodiphenylether, as a flame retardant, on a silver face of a substrate;

disposing a mixture of toluene and methanol between the pellet and the silver face of the substrate;

maintaining the mixture of toluene and methanol between the silver face of the substrate and the pellet and dissolving molecules of the polystyrene and the flame retardant in the mixture of toluene and methanol;

removing the pellet from the silver face of the substrate and leaving a residue of the molecules of the polystyrene and the flame retardant on the silver face of the substrate; and

analyzing the residue on the silver face of the substrate by time-of-flight secondary ion mass spectrometry and determining the concentration of the flame retardant in the polystyrene from the spectrometry.

16. (New) The method as recited in claim 15, wherein the mixture of toluene and methanol includes silver perchlorate dissolved in the mixture to saturation.

17. (New) A method of analyzing concentration of a material contained in a minute amount in a polymer, the method comprising:

placing a pellet of polypropylene including a minute amount of decabromodiphenylether, as a flame retardant, on a silver face of a substrate;

disposing toluene between the pellet and the face of the substrate;

maintaining the toluene between the face of the substrate and the pellet and dissolving molecules of the flame retardant in the toluene;

removing the pellet from the silver face of the substrate and leaving a residue of the molecules of the flame retardant on the silver face of the substrate; and

analyzing the residue on the silver face of the substrate by time-of-flight secondary ion mass spectrometry and determining the concentration of the flame retardant in the polypropylene from the spectrometry.

18. (New) The method as recited in claim 17, including exposing the pellet to an ambient of saturated vapor of toluene while maintaining the toluene between the silver face of the substrate and the pellet, thereby dissolving molecules of the flame retardant in the toluene.